



U.S. Department of Justice

Ronald C. Machen Jr.
*United States Attorney for the
District of Columbia*

*Judiciary Center
555 Fourth St. N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20530*

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, May 17, 2011

For Information Contact:

Public Affairs

(202) 252-6933

<http://www.justice.gov/usao/dc/news/2011/apr/news.html>

District Man Pleads Guilty to Sexually Abusing Three Children Under the Age of 12

WASHINGTON - Charles G. Pettis, 39, of Washington, D.C., pled guilty today to sexually abusing three female children, all of whom were under the age of 12, U.S. Attorney Ronald C. Machen Jr. announced.

Pettis pled guilty in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia to charges of first degree child sexual abuse with aggravating circumstances, attempted first degree child sexual abuse with aggravating circumstances, and second degree child sexual abuse with aggravating circumstances. The Honorable Lynn Leibovitz scheduled sentencing for July 21, 2011.

Under the court's voluntary sentencing guidelines, Pettis faces a likely sentence of 10 ½ to 37 ½ years in prison. He also will be required to register as a sex offender for the rest of his life.

According to the facts proffered by the government at the plea hearing, the defendant was living with his former girlfriend when he sexually assaulted the young females, all of whom were related to his former girlfriend. In one instance, Pettis entered the bedroom where one child, who was approximately seven or eight years old at the time, was sleeping. Pettis told the child to get out of bed and pull down her pants. Pettis then sexually assaulted her. Pettis also admitted to pulling down the pants of another child, who was 11 at the time, and sexually assaulting her. Finally, Pettis admitted that he sexually assaulted another child, who was nine or 10 at the time.

In announcing the plea, U.S. Attorney Machen praised the extraordinary work of Detective Lynn Rosenberg, who obtained a detailed statement from the defendant in this case, and the excellent work of Detective Bridget Parrish, both of the Metropolitan Police Department's Youth Investigations Division. He also recognized the dedicated work of U.S. Attorney's Office Victim Advocate Veronica A. Vaughan, Forensic Child Interview Specialist Karen Giannakoulis of the U.S. Attorney's Office and Tracy Owusu of the D.C. Children's

Advocacy Center, Paralegal Kristy Penny, and Legal Assistant Nicole Lee. Lastly, he recognized Assistant U.S. Attorney HelenAnne Listerman, who investigated and prosecuted the case.

11-204

###